

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00123 201616Z

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00

H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05

BIB-01 ACDE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /082 W

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O P 201500Z MAR 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0906

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0123

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON

MARCH 18, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE MARCH 18 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE NETHERLANDS REP, UK REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, GDR REP OESER AND POLISH REP STRULAK. THE SESSION BROUGHT NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EASTERN POSITION. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES ONCE AGAIN SOUGHT TO PRESENT THEIR SUGGESTIONS OF FEBRUARY 25 AS IMPORTANT COMPROMISE PROPOSALS. THEY AGAIN ACCUSED THE WEST OF BLOCKING PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH ADHERING TO POSITIONS WHICH DEPARTED FROM THE AGREED PRINCIPLES OF THE JUNE 1973 COMMUNIQUE. EASTERN REPS ASSERTED THAT THE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00123 201616Z

WESTERN POSITION WAS HARDENING IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO

DELIBERATELY BLOCK THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, EASTERN REPS AGAIN REFERRED TO US AND FRG FORCE IMPROVEMENTS AND STATED THAT, TAKING ALLIED BEHAVIOR IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TOGETHER WITH THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THEY COULD NOT HELP BUT HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ALLIED MOTIVES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. UK REP OPENED SESSION BY REFERRING TO THE QUESTION RAISED BY CZECHOSLOVAK REP IN THE PREVIOUS SESSION AS TO THE GOOD FAITH OF THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS. HE SAID THE WESTERN ASSUMPTION WAS THAT BOTH SIDES WERE NEGOTIATING IN GOOD FAITH AND THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD ADHERE TO THIS ASSUMPTION IN THEIR STATEMENTS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP IN THE TALKS. UK REP EXPLAINED HOW THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH WOULD RESULT IN AN OUTCOME WHICH WOULD DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS AND THAT THE ONLY EQUITABLE OUTCOME WAS ONE OF APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES. GDR REP CLAIMED THE WEST HAD FAILED TO APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FEBRUARY 25 EASTERN PROPOSALS. HE SAID THE NEGATIVE WESTERN REACTION TO THE EASTERN PROPOSALS AND ADHERENCE OF THE WEST TO ITS OLD PROGRAM WITHOUT ANY CHANGE TAKEN TOGETHER WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW US AND FRG BRIGADES RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO BRING THE VIENNA TALKS TO A DEADLOCK AND AVOID ANY REDUCTIONS.

3. US REP POINTED OUT THAT THE WEST CONSIDERED THE EASTERN MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED ON FEBRUARY 25 PROCEDURAL BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT TAKEN OVER SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET AND BECAUSE THEIR CONTENT DID NOT DEPART FROM THE ORIGINAL EASTERN POSITION EITHER AS REGARDS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET OR OF REDUCTIONS AS SUCH. POLISH REP CLAIMED THAT IN REFUSING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE FEBRUARY 25 EASTERN PROPOSALS WERE A GENUINE COMPROMISE, WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES WERE STICKING TO THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION, WHICH WAS EVEN HARDENING. NETHERLANDS REP STRESSED THE VALUE OF DATA EXCHANGE AS AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS OF THE NEGOTIATING SITUATION AND SAID THAT EASTERN OPPOSITION TO THIS WAS ITSELF AN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS. SOVIET REP KHELESTOV ASSERTED  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00123 201616Z

WITHOUT PRODUCING ANY NEW ARGUMENTS THAT THE EASTERN PROPOSALS OF FEBRUARY 25 WERE IMPORTANT. HE ONCE AGAIN CLAIMED THAT THE EAST HAD MOVED AND THAT THE WEST HAD NOT. HE ASSERTED, IN REFERRING TO UK REP'S REMARKS THAT ONE CONSEQUENCE OF A REDUCTION AGREEMENT WOULD BE THAT THE WEST WOULD HAVE TO RELINQUISH ITS RIGHT TO MAKE GOOD THE EASTERN SUPERIORITY IN GROUND FORCES, THAT THE WEST WAS DEVELOPING A NEW THEORY OF JUSTIFYING MILITARY

BUILD-UP IN PLACE OF ACTIONS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE AN AGREEMENT ON REDUCTION OF FORCES.

4. IN THE COURSE OF HIS REMARKS, STRULAK ASSERTED THAT THE EAST HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS FURTHER FLEXIBILITY BY STRONGLY URGING THE WESTERN REPS TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS OF THEIR OWN TO EACH OF THE VARIOUS EASTERN PROPOSALS WHEN IT HAD BEEN ADVANCED. IN HIS COMMENTS, KHLESTOV AGAIN RAISED THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL AND STATED,,AS HE HAD DURING DISCUSSION WITH THE WEST AT THE TIME IT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN INTRODUCED, THAT IF THE WEST WERE PREPARED TO AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP, BUT DID NOT LIKE THE BASIS FOR THIS STEP WHICH THE EAST HAD PROPOSED, THE WEST SHOULD PROPOSE A BASIS OF ITS OWN. STRULAK ALSO TWICE MADE THE POINT, APPARENTLY TO DEMONSTRATE HOW EXTREME THE WESTERN POSITION WAS, THAT, EVIDENTLY, THE NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WERE UNWILLING TO COMMIT THEMSELVES IN A FIRST AGREEMENT AS TO THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS EVEN IF THE EAST DID ACCEPT THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH.

5. IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD THE NEXT INFORMAL SESSION ON MONDAY, MARCH 24. END SUMMARY.  
REMAINDER OF REPORT BEING SENT VIA AIRGRAM.RESOR

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, EAST WEST MEETINGS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MBFRV00123  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750097-0919  
**From:** MBFR VIENNA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 138  
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**Office:** ACTION ACDA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <07 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON MARCH 18, 1975  
**TAGS:** PARM, NATO, MBFR  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006